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WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION: RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTS IN ASSISTING IN NAME PRONUNCIATION

Revision of the maps of New Caledonia on the scale 1:50,000

Paper submitted by France**

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The updating of the maps of New Caledonia on the scale 1:50,000 began in 1983, on the basis of a ministerial directive placing the fieldwork under the responsibility of the territorial Topographic Service, while the maps were prepared and published by the Institut Géographique National.

This revision has shown that the old maps, dating from 1955 and 1956, contained errors either in location or in the choice of toponyms, but above all, large areas were totally devoid of names.

The Topographic Service therefore undertook an extensive survey involving the inhabitants, as a result of which the maps were considerably improved through the collection and notation of traditional toponyms that had never before been documented.

The original version included fewer than 4,000 toponyms for 20,000 square kilometres, whereas the revision has increased the number of new toponyms in the nomenclature by 200 to 300 per cent in the best-surveyed areas (see maps 3 and 4).

The New Caledonian Topographic Service came up against two difficulties in this undertaking: first, great diversity among languages and dialects, and second, the lack of a single standardized writing system.